sive methods. The rays must be prescribed and given in a therapeutic dose for each disease, in order to obtain good results. Tissues are not always affected to the same extent by the same dose, any more than the same dose of a drug will always produce the same physiological effect. Idiosyncrasy is not believed to be a frequent cause of excessive inflammation, but a certain affected area of disease will react more readily than healthy tissue, because the life of the cells is lower. It requires twice as many units of x-radiation to produce the same degree of reaction in healthy tissue as it does in many forms of diseased tissue. If the dosage is small, causing stimulation, nutrition is improved, but if large, atrophy and degeneration in one form or another are liable to follow. The author states that 75 per cent. of acne cases can be cured without producing inflammation, but in the other 25 per cent. of cases reaction to the extent of desquamation (as in severe sunburn) is required. He considers that the benefit is due to an induced leukocytosis. [In extolling the x-rays for the treatment of this often trivial affection, we are surprised that the author does not caution the operator on the liability to the occurrence of the unpleasant results that may occur from short and infrequent exposures, especially in the form of persistent pigmentations and telangiectases, either of which (when they occur) may be most disfiguring and lasting than the acne.—Abstractor.] Attention is called to the good results in a few cases of Hodgkin's disease and in goitre. A remarkable improvement in the general health usually follows after a few radiations in the former disease, while in the latter the growths are not only reduced in size, but the symptoms of the disease often disappear.

Xanthoerythrodermia Perstans.—H. RADCLIFFE-CROCKER (*British Journal of Dermatology*, April, 1905), under the above provisional title, describes a form of disease which he believes has not been described hitherto. During the past three years he has observed 10 cases of the affection, all of them males, with one exception. Up to the present all the cases have been adults. The eruption begins as pale pink or yellowish patches on the limbs and trunk, the uncovered parts of the body being free or very slightly affected. The patches come out very gradually and in small numbers, being, as a rule, symmetrically placed. As the old patches do not entirely disappear and new ones are continually coming out, large areas are eventually involved. They are usually oval or elongated in shape, and arranged symmetrically on the back in the direction of the ribs, and often but not always in vertical lines on the limbs. Pinching up the skin reveals distinct infiltration, but the patches are not raised above the healthy skin. The surface is smooth on the trunk, but slightly rough or even scaly upon the limbs. The thighs are the parts most frequently first affected, next the legs, then the trunk; the face is nearly always free. In most cases itching is slight or absent. The duration of the disease varies from a few months to many years, and is apparently compatible with perfect health. The affection seems to be fairly amenable to treatment; 2 cases were cured and others improved by the administration of salicin internally and iodine vasogen locally. In the single case occurring in a female exposure to the Roentgen ray cleared up the affected area entirely. Nothing is known as to the etiology. Two of the patients had syphilis, but antisyphilitic treatment pursued vigorously for a year was without effect. Microscopic examination of excised portions of skin showed absent or atrophied stratum granulosum, absent stratum lucidum, and slight œdema of the epidermis generally. The vessels of the corium were dilated and surrounded by some cellular infiltration. The collagen was apparently normal, with the exception of slight œdema, but there was apparently a reduction in the quantity of elastin, especially in the papillary layer.

OTOLOGY.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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Technique of and Indications for Removal of the Malleus and Incus.—HEINRICH NEUMANN (*Archiv f. Ohrenheilkunde,* Band lxiv.), under the above title, discusses the method of anæsthetization of the tympanum and tympanic membrane, the technique of the operation, and the indications for the operation itself. Neumann advises local anæsthesia by the method used in Politzer's clinic for all endotympanal operations. The fluid used for injection beneath the skin of the external auditory canal is a 1 per cent. solution of cocaine, to which tonogen, a preparation of adrenal extract, is added, in the proportion of 1 to 4 drops of tonogen to a cubic centimetre of the cocaine solution. The subcutaneous syringe used for the injection differs from an ordinary syringe, in that the needle is attached to the barrel at an obtuse angle, for ease in manipulation. The needle is introduced beneath the skin of the external auditory canal in its upper part and about 0.5 to 1 cm. outside of the place of juncture of the cartilaginous and bony portion of the canal and is carried in from this point under the periosteum of the bony canal. For satisfactory anæsthesia it is necessary to inject sufficient fluid to elevate the upper and posterior cutaneous lining of the bony canal. The efficacy of this method of cocainizing the tympanum and tympanic membrane is dependent upon the anatomical structure in this situation. The cutaneous lining of the bony canal in its upper part goes over directly into the epidermal layer of the pars flaccida of the tympanic membrane, and, as the pars flaccida has no membrana propria and its inner layer of mucous membrane is a direct continuation of the mucous membrane lining the tympanic cavity, the fluid injected will in part spread under the mucous membrane of this cavity. Sometimes a swelling of the mucous membrane over the promonotory can be observed when this method has been used. The injected fluid also penetrates along bloodvessels which pierce the outer wall of the attic, thus reaching the space of Prussak and the external attic wall. Another